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COUNCIL DECREES NEW WOOL PRICES

A recent decree of the Council of Ministers has established new prices for wool collected in the 1950 campaign. Heretofore, the weight and quota of wool have been determined by local commissions which, for the most part, have failed to give accurate figures and have tended to minimize the actual weight of the wool collected in every village. As a result, wool deliveries have been seriously lagging.

The decree establishes a higher wool price, effective on 1 April 1950, and is designed to encourage production and proper quota deliveries. To improve breeding, owners of merino rams will be exempted from state deliveries.

The new price for sheared, unwashed merino wool has been increased from 350 to 550 leva per kilogram, or by 57 percent; from 300 to 500 leva for semi-merino wool, or by 66 percent; and from 260 to 360 leva for soft wool, or by 39 percent. It is expected that the higher prices will stimulate the production of high-grade wool. Owners of only two sheep will be exempted from state deliveries.

According to the decree, okoliya are grouped into seven categories determined by the wool yield of their flocks, and the quota of every farmer is established by the number of his sheep and the category of the location. Furthermore, the deliveries are based on a progressive scale, and the quotas imposed on small and medium farmers are relatively low. Thus, farmers owning five sheep, in the first category, have to deliver 0.792 kilograms for state purchase, in the 2d category 0.720, in the 3d 0.684, in the 4th 0.576, in the 5th 0.504, in the 6th 0.432, and in the 7th 0.360 kilograms per head. In the same order farmers with 15 sheep will have to deliver 1.254, 1.140, 1.083, 0.912, 0.798, 0.684, and 0.570 kilograms per head.

To assure proper compliance, it is necessary to obtain the exact number of sheep on every farm, and farmers must be promptly informed of the quota they are expected to deliver. In the past these requirements have not received sufficient attention from the local authorities, and local soviets will therefore, have new and more stringent provisions in this respect.

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- 1 -

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The purchase of wool quotas will be handled by the Tekstilni Vlakna State Enterprise, and it is hoped that this year the deficiencies of last year, resulting from a shortage of warehouse space and inadequate transportation, will have been eliminated.

The deadline of the purchasing campaign is set for 15 July. Subsequently, the Ministry of Industry will exchange free surplus quantities of wool for woolen fabrics, wherever the quota requirements have been fully satisfied.

An intensive political and educational campaign is essential to promote the early and proper fulfillment of state requirements.

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- 2 -

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